

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-22 (Canceled)

23. (New) An image date retrieval apparatus comprising:

 a database for registering a plurality of images;

 a display unit for displaying an image registered in the image database;

 a designator for designating an image area of the registered image displayed on the display unit; and

 a controller for cutting out image data corresponding to the registered image data and retrieving a desired image data containing image data which is identical or analogous to the image data cut out from the database.

24. (New) The image data retrieval apparatus of claim 23, wherein the image corresponding to the image area is an image of a face of a person.

25. (New) An image data retrieval apparatus for retrieving image data including object image data from an image database having a plurality of images registered therein, comprising:

 a display unit for displaying an image registered in the image database;

 a pointing device for designating a point in an object image corresponding to the object image data included in the registered image displayed on the display unit; and

 a controller for analyzing a pixel located in a vicinity of the point designated by the pointing device and cutting out the object image data as a retrieval key image based on the result of the analyzing and retrieving a desired image data containing the object image identical or analogous to the database by comparing said retrieval key image cut out to at least one other image.

26. (New) The image data retrieval apparatus of claim 25, wherein the object image is an image of face of a person.

27. (New) An image data retrieval method comprising:
 registering a plurality of images in a database;

displaying an image registered in the database on a display unit;
designating an image area of the registered image displayed on the display unit;
cutting out image data corresponding to the designated image area of the registered image;
and

retrieving a desired image containing image data which is identical or analogous to the image data cut out from the registered image.

28. (New) A machine-readable medium having program code stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform a method for retrieving image data from an image database, the method executed by said machine comprising:

registering a plurality of images in a database;
displaying an image registered in the database on a display unit;
designating an image area of the registered image displayed on the display unit;
cutting out image data corresponding to the designated image area of the registered image;
and
retrieving a desired image containing image data which is identical or analogous to the image data cut out from the registered image.